



**OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR  
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**All 92 Indiana Counties Designated Primary Disaster Areas**

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Indiana State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency Julia Wickard announced today that all 92 Indiana counties have been designated primary natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The word comes after Lt. Governor Skillman and Wickard sent a letter on July 25 to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, requesting a Secretarial disaster designation for Indiana, due to the impact of excessive heat, frost, freeze and drought. The USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined sufficient production losses to warrant such a declaration.

“It’s been one challenge after another this year for our farmers, who provide so much for all of our families,” said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. “This is another great step in the recovery process, and we remain committed to helping members of our agricultural community get through these difficult times and move forward with renewed optimism.”

A Secretarial disaster designation makes qualified farmers in both primary and contiguous counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans through USDA’s Farm Service Agency. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for low interest loans. FSA will consider each loan application on individual merits.

“This designation is important because it provides relief to all producers across Indiana who have suffered a qualifying loss of 30 percent or greater of at least one crop,” said Julia Wickard, State Executive Director, Indiana Farm Service Agency. “It extends the scope beyond drought, which is what the new USDA Fast Track process, using the U.S. Drought Monitor, provided Hoosier farmers this summer.”

The following counties in adjacent states are now named as contiguous disaster areas:

**Illinois (12):**

Clark	Edgar	Kankakee	Wabash
Cook	Gallatin	Lawrence	White
Crawford	Iroquois	Vermillion	Will

**Kentucky (13):**

Boone	Daviess	Hardin	Meade	Trimble
Breckinridge	Gallatin	Henderson	Oldham	Union
Carroll	Hancock	Jefferson		

**-More-**

**Michigan (5):**

Berrien      Branch      Cass      Hillsdale      St. Joseph

**Ohio (9):**

Butler              Hamilton              Preble  
Darke              Mercer              Van Wert  
Defiance              Paulding              Williams

In addition to loan assistance, the USDA has also improved flexibility in the Conservation Reserve Program, making more livestock producers and landowners eligible for emergency haying and grazing. Indiana has a comprehensive website dedicated to the latest developments on the 2012 drought. Visit [www.in.gov/drought](http://www.in.gov/drought) for more information on disaster declarations, assistance programs and additional resources for producers.

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*Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Tourism Development, and the State Department of Agriculture.*

*To receive email updates from Lt. Governor Skillman, sign up at [www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm](http://www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm).*

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